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Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for September 1960

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

The Near East/Africa Branch notes that a trend away from Bloc orientation appears to be developing in the Soviet Penetration Staff of the Services Division of ORR. In a recent briefing the Staff used an approach that employed the broad outlook of area study and went well beyond the limits of Soviet penetration. Members of the Staff have been equipped for an area approach to the Middle East and North Africa through participation in Summer seminars in Beirut and other area presentations. In view of these events and the circumstance that the Staff has more people working on the Middle East and Africa than does GG/N, it is possible that conflicts of function may appear.

EUROPE BRANCH

The reduction of file, book and map holdings to fit the space requirements of the new building has caused anguish and will continue to do so, particularly among analysts who work from time to time in amorphous fields or on more or less one-shot operations, e.g., "territorial sea", "the Arctic", "sovereignty".

NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

Chapter IX, Ghana, has not been completed as originally scheduled because of the need to give first priority to GM 60-3. However, a major portion of the search effort has been accomplished.

FAR EAST/PACIFIC BRANCH 25X1A9a

25X1A8a

25X1C14a

Contacts made by during his most recent lecture at the course emphasize the changing nature of equipment and techniques involved in clandestine tradecraft and the attendant necessity for D/GG analysts involved in operational support studies to remain abreast of such developments. Periodic refresher briefings by qualified personnel from TSD to appropriate D/GG analysts could help to fill this need.



CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

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The Division had no major problems come up during the month. However, confusion in certain operational projects again pointed up the need for better coordination of projects in DD/P when map and chart work is involved. There is a serious deficiency in DD/P internal operations when it is often necessary for D/GC to act as an intermediary to acquaint DD/P components, usually on an urgent basis, with what other DD/P components have already done. The Division must be constantly alert to see that manhours and efforts are not duplication of what had previously been done. If DD/P could relax their compartmentalization to the extent of setting up a "coordination for geographic and cartographic information" liaison with ORK, this would go a long way to alleviate the situation as it affects D/GC.

USSR-Satellites Compilation Branch

The potentially serious leave problem for the remainder of this year mentioned in last month's report has been aggravated by four weeks of emergency sick leave granted to 25X1A9a

Development and Construction Branch

An overload of work coupled with some unexpected sick leave in the Composing Section led to sending several cuts to be printed by an outside commercial firm in order to meet a committed deadline. Not only was the quality of the final product not acceptable but the cuts were almost ruined by misjudgment on the part of the company. Moreover, the price was so exhorbitant that any future contract for this type of work in lieu of Branch overtime should be carefully considered and examined.

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

There has been a shortage of personnel in the Collection Section of the Processing Branch, owing to a two-month illness of one employee and the loss of one slot in the July reorganization. The shortage of personnel, together with an exceptionally heavy workload and pressure of deadlines, has placed a severe strain on the Section, and has brought to a standstill the maintenance of the collection at Vital Storage, where a backlog is now accummulating.

